

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00 NIC-01 OC-05 OPR-01

USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-04 SCS-03 FBO-02 /087 W

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R 260954Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3360

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCE AND RUMORS OF DISTURBANCES

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN RECEIVING REPORTS FOR SOME TIME OF INCIDENT IN GOJJAM PROVINCE WHICH ACCORDING TO THREE AMERICAN SOURCES NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS. ON OR ABOUT FEB. 1 TWO LARGE BUS LOADS OF ERITREANS TRAVELING FROM ADDIS ABABA TO ERITREA SPENT NIGHT BURE, GOJJAM PROVINCE. INHABITANTS OF NEXT VILLAGE ON THE ROAD HEARD OF THIS CARAVAN AND SET UP ROAD BLOCK ON OUT-SKIRTS OF TOWN OF INJIBARA. ACCORDING TO SOURCES ALL 600 RESIDENTS OF INJIBARA TOOK PART IN ROBBING BUS PASSENGERS OF ALL POSSESSIONS INCLUDING CLOTHES. ARMY/POLICE, ACCORDING TO SOURCES, CAME AFTERWARDS TO ARREST PERPETRATORS DURING WHICH FIREFIGHT ENSURED RESULTING IN DEATHS OF 30 CIVILIANS AND A SMALL NUMBER OF

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SOLDIERS INCLUDING MAJOR IN COMMAND OF POLICE IN THAT AREA.

BRITISH COLLEAGUE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY SEVERAL RELIABLE SOURCES OF SEVEN SOLDIERS WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE WHO HAVE BEEN IN HOSPITAL SINCE THE INCIDENT. AMERICAN SOURCES REPORTED SEEING SEVERAL OF THE CASUALTIES OF THIS INCIDENT BEING BURIED IN BAHR DAR, GOJJAM.

2. SAME SOURCES AS PARA 1 REPORT THAT A FORMER PARLIAMENTARIAN FROM GOJJAM NAMED SIMENA IS ATTEMPTING TO LEAD 300-600 FOLLOWERS IN REVOLT AGAINST ADDIS GOVERNMENT PRESENCE IN CENTRAL GOJJAM.

3. EMBASSY HAS IT THIRD HAND FROM ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE COLONEL THAT 35 AIR FORCE OFFICERS RECENTLY ARRESTED BY "DIRG." THS MAY BE AS RESULT OF RUMORED DISTURBANCES AT DEBRE ZEYT AIR FORCE BASE, FEBRUARY 8 WHICH ALLEGEDLY CENTERED AROUND NON-"DIRG" AIR FORCE MEMBERS DEMANDS FOR IMMEDIATE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE.

4. ERITREAN MARRIED TO NAVY CAPTAIN REPORTS PRACTICALLY ALL THEIR ERITREAN NAVY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, MANY AFTER ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT ELF/PLF TO DEFECT.

5. POL FSL PRESENT ON 23 FEB. WHEN 8 ERITREANS ARRESTED FROM ADDIS BAR AND ON 22 FEB. WHEN 9 ERITREANS ARRESTED IN RESTAURANT.

6. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THERE ARE 150 MANZIS ASSEMBLED OUTSIDE GRAND PALACE FEB. 2T. THEY DEMONSTRATED AGAINST LAND TAXES AND SHOUTED ANTI "DIRG" SLOGANS.
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